GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3300
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2007
UNRELIABILITY OF RUSSIAN WEAPON SYSTEMS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia still remains the largest defence supplier to India;

(b) if so, whether there is unreliability of some of Russian weapon systems as well as tardy product support in execution of several projects;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to sort out the issues with Russian firms?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) to (c): Defence acquisitions, including product support therefor, are made from various indigenous and foreign sources including Russia in accordance with the well laid down defence procurement procedure. These acquisitions are made with a view to modernizing the Armed Forces to keep them in a state of readiness to face any threat to national security. Defence Procurement Procedure 2006 has provisions for safeguards against supply of inferior quality products from all sources including those from Russia.

(d) The issues relating to product support are pursued with the Russian firms as well as the Russian Government on a continuous basis and the same are resolved through mutual discussions and diplomatic channels through forums like Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation and working groups.